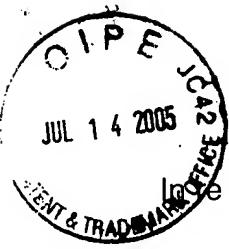


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Initial Application of:
Neil A. A. Simpson

Serial No.: 10/616,061

Confirmation No.: 9534

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: EXPANSION METHOD

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

§
§
§ Group Art Unit: 3672
§
§ Examiner: Hoang C. Dang
§
§ Customer No.: 36735
§
§

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 8 July, 2005.

William B. Patterson

Typed Name

34,102

Reg. No. if applicable

William B. Patterson

Signature

(713)623-4844

Telephone Number

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT DATED JUNE 9, 2005

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 9, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one-month set to expire on July 9, 2005, please enter the following response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in conjunction with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0092/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.